



JAMES B. DONOVAN
... Reports on Prisoners

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Hope Seen For More Prisoners Of Cubans

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HOMESTEAD AFB, Fla. (UPI)

James B. Donovan, the New York attorney who brought two American prisoners back from Cuba Sunday, said he hopes to gain release of the estimated 33 other Americans held in Cuban jails.

Donovan and the two women whose release he obtained arrived here from Havana on a special plane.

"I am confident that within the next few weeks I can prove that the nine American skindivers arrested by (Cuban Premier Fidel) Castro several weeks ago were not saboteurs but were shipwrecked and should be released," Donovan said.

He said "about 35" Americans, including the two women released Sunday and the skindivers, were Castro's prisoners.

The women are Martha O'Neal of Atlanta, Ga., and Orlando, Fla., and Geraldine Shamma, a native of Boston, Mass., and a

He said he visited 11 American prisoners on the Isle of Pines, a Cuban offshore island, Saturday afternoon, and talked to others in Havana Sunday. He said he spent three hours talking with the skindivers who were seized last month.

Mrs. O'Neal, who told newsmen she was manhandled at the time of her arrest, said she was taken into custody because Cuban authorities "claimed I had some kind of contacts in Miami."

She said she was given only token legal representation at her trial but was treated "nicely" in prison.

"I'm going to be the best American citizen ever," Mrs. O'Neal said. "I can thank God for this and I can thank Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Donovan and even Mr. Castro, who let me go."

Mrs. Shamma, about 50, said she owned a home in Cuba before her arrest but has no plans to get it back "because I wouldn't go back there for a million dollars."

She said she was arrested in March of 1960 and charged with counter-revolutionary activities.